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THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Report of the First Committee (Part XV)*

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The First Committee considered agenda item 74 jointly with all the other items relating to disarmament and international security (for details, see A/51/566). For the documents before the Committee under item 74, see A/51/566, paragraph 3.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/51/L.27 and Rev.1 and 2

2. At the 17th meeting of the Committee, on 7 November 1996, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the League of Arab States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" (A/C.1/51/L.27).

3. At the 24th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the same sponsors, introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/51/L.27/Rev.1), which contained the following changes:

(a) The seventh and eighth preambular paragraphs, which had read:

"Noting with satisfaction that, since the adoption of the aforementioned resolutions by the Conference of the Parties to the Treaty

* The reports of the Committee on all the agenda items relating to disarmament and international security (items 60, 61 and 63-81) will be issued under the symbol A/51/566 and addenda.

on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995, Djibouti and the United Arab Emirates have become parties to the Treaty, and that Oman will become a party to the Treaty at the earliest date,

"Noting with concern that Israel will be the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has not declared its intention to do so",

were merged and revised to read:

"Noting that, since the adoption of the aforementioned resolutions by the Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995, Djibouti and the United Arab Emirates have become parties to the Treaty, and that Oman will become a party to the Treaty at the earliest date, and noting also that Israel shall be the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has not declared its intention to do so";

(b) A new tenth preambular paragraph was inserted reading:

"Noting the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its signature by 132 States, including a number of States in the region";

(c) Operative paragraphs 2 and 3, which had read:

"2. Calls upon Israel, the only State in the region that is not yet party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has not declared its intention to do so, to accede to the Treaty without further delay, and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons;

"3. Also calls upon Israel to place all unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security",

were merged and revised to read:

"2. Calls upon the only State in the region that is not yet party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has not declared its intention to do so, to accede to the Treaty without further delay, and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security",

and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly.

4. Subsequently, the Committee had before it a further revised draft resolution (A/C.1/51/L.27/Rev.2), submitted by the same sponsors, joined by Malaysia, which contained the following changes:

(a) The eighth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Concerned about threats posed to security and stability by the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region",

was revised to read:

"Concerned about threats posed to security and stability by the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the region";

(b) The last preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Noting the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its signature by 132 States, including a number of States in the region",

was revised to read:

"Noting the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by the General Assembly and its signature by 132 States, including a number of States in the region".

5. At its 25th meeting, on 18 November, the First Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.27/Rev.2 as follows:

(a) The sixth preambular paragraph was adopted by a recorded vote of 118 to 2, with 10 abstentions. The voting was as follows:[1]

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova,

[1] The delegations of Armenia and the Marshall Islands subsequently indicated that they had not intended to participate in the vote on the sixth preambular paragraph.

Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: India, Israel.

Abstaining: Armenia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Fiji, Guatemala, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Nicaragua, Pakistan.

(b) Revised draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.27/Rev.2 as a whole was adopted by a recorded vote of 98 to 2, with 32 abstentions (see para. 6). The voting was as follows:[2]

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Guatemala, India, Jamaica, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Singapore, Uruguay, Venezuela.

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[2] The delegation of Oman subsequently indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of the revised draft resolution.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

6. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the relevant United Nations resolutions,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the latest of which is GC(40)RES/22 adopted on 20 September 1996, and noting the danger of nuclear proliferation, especially in areas of tension,

Cognizant that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region of the Middle East would pose a serious threat to international peace and security,

Mindful of the importance of placing all nuclear facilities in the region of the Middle East under full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Recalling the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,[3] in which the Conference noted with concern the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty and called upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place all their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

Recalling also the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,[4] in which the Conference urged universal adherence to the Treaty as an urgent priority and called upon all States not yet party to the Treaty to accede to it at the earliest date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities,

Noting that, since the adoption of the aforementioned resolutions by the Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995, Djibouti and the United Arab Emirates have become

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[3] See 1995 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex.

[4] Ibid., decision 2.

parties to the Treaty, and that Oman will become a party to the Treaty at the earliest date, and noting also that Israel shall be the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has not declared its intention to do so,

Concerned about threats posed to security and stability by the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the region,

Stressing the importance of undertaking confidence-building measures, in particular the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in order to consolidate the non-proliferation regime and enhance peace and security in the region,

Noting the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by the General Assembly and its signature by 132 States, including a number of States in the region,

1. Welcomes the accession of Djibouti to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 22 August 1996, as well as the decision of Oman, expressed by its Minister of State for Foreign Affairs before the General Assembly on 1 October 1996,[5] to accede to the Treaty;

2. Calls upon the only State in the region that is not yet party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has not declared its intention to do so, to accede to the Treaty without further delay, and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

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[5] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Plenary Meetings, 16th meeting.